



The Old Stone Wall

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Division of Historical Resources

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NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

James L. Garvin, *State Architectural Historian*



John Goffe's Mill as reconstructed by George Woodbury in 1939.
From New Hampshire Troubadour, October 1948

In 1938, Dr. George Woodbury, an out-of-work anthropologist, returned to his birthplace in Bedford, New Hampshire, to try to earn a living by rebuilding and operating a long-abandoned water-powered mill on Bowman's Brook. Beginning in 1744, Woodbury's ancestors had built and operated a series of mills of every description on that stream. Looking across the fields from his family home, Woodbury was "greeted by a spectacular panorama of surrounding Hillsborough County. Green and jewel-like in the spring sunshine, it stretched away on every hand." Gathered behind a newly repaired dam, Woodbury's millpond lay "dark,

smooth, and steaming in the morning sun." Bedford was then a town of farms, woodlots, and 1500 inhabitants, safely removed from the teeming industrial city of Manchester by a full two miles. In 1948, Woodbury recorded the saga of his reconstruction project in the best-selling book, *John Goffe's Mill*.

Then, in the late 1950s, the Everett Turnpike arrived. Passing within yards of the mill, it ran headlong over Bowman's Brook and planted a sprawling interchange just below the millpond. Suddenly, Woodbury's world had changed. So had the quiet farming town of Bedford.

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View From the Solarium

A New Day for the Old State House

It's a pretty good bet that 250 years ago this year the timbers, sheathing, planking, and other building materials were being prepared for the construction of the first house of government in New Hampshire, commonly called the Old State House. Construction began in 1758, and this building was erected in what is today's Market Square in Portsmouth, to house the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the colonial government that was to become the State of New Hampshire.

The state house has been the site of some of the most historic events taking place in New Hampshire. In 1767, Governor John Wentworth was inaugurated in the state house; in 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read from the balcony; and in 1783, peace with Great Britain was declared

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NH Division of Historical Resources

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State Curator

Patricia Blevens
Grants Coordinator

Richard A. Boisvert
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Edna M. Feighner
*Historical Archaeologist &
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Program Assistant

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State Survey Coordinator

Emily Paulus
Preservation Planner

Christine Fonda Rankie
*National Register, Preservation Tax
Incentives & Covenants Coordinator*

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Program Assistant

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The DHR is a state agency, supported by the State of New Hampshire, by the federal Historic Preservation Fund (through a matching grant administered by the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior), and by donated funds and services. In addition to its state functions, the DHR is also responsible for administering the federal preservation program in New Hampshire.

Recent National Register Listings



Contoocook Railroad Depot, Hopkinton (Contoocook Village) NH. Listed March 16, 2006.

Photograph by Chip Chesley

The Contoocook Railroad Depot was completed in 1849 as one of the first substantial railroad passenger stations west of Concord on the Concord and Claremont Railroad. (See related story on page five.) The building is one of the best preserved of a small number of gable-roofed railroad stations surviving from the first decade of rail development in New Hampshire. The station exemplifies the pioneering period of rail development in the state. The Contoocook Depot provided essential passenger service and communications for the Concord and Claremont Railroad and the Contoocook Valley Railroad, two of the earliest short line railroads in New Hampshire.



Waumbek Cottages Historic District, Jefferson NH. Listed March 15, 2006.

Photograph by Nancy S. Greenlee

The Waumbek Cottages Historic District is an excellent representation of a summer colony connected with a White Mountain grand resort. This grouping follows a typical pattern of cottage development, from hotels to hotel cottages to private cottages.

Though the Waumbek Hotel is gone, six of the cottages survive along with other resources associated with the summer cottage colony – stone landscaping, connecting pathways, open vistas, cottage gardens, and nearby woodlands. Over the years, fire, alteration, disuse, and demolition have decimated New Hampshire's White Mountain hotel cottage colonies. Today, the Waumbek Cottages survive as the largest and most intact grouping of its type.



Stark Park, Manchester NH. Listed June 14, 2006.

Photograph by Lisa Mausolf

Stark Park, located in Manchester's north end, is a 30 acre park established in 1893. This land was part of the Stark Family Farm, an 800 acre tract owned by Archibald Stark, father of General John Stark. General Stark was buried here in 1822. In 1876, two acres on which the burial site is located were deeded to the City by two of General Stark's great-grandchildren. In 1886 a move began to create a park at Stark's burial site. In 1891 an additional 28 acres were added to the burial site and the following year a design for the park was commissioned. Work began in spring of 1893. The formal dedication took place June 17, 1893, though improvements continued over the next several years.

The park was characteristic of Victorian period landscape design with grass, plantings, walks and roadways, and statuary.

*Christine Fonda Rankie
National Register and Tax Incentives
Coordinator*

“Moose Plate” Grant Awards

The continued popularity of New Hampshire's Conservation License Plates has enabled the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (DHR) to award funds totaling \$50,000 to six communities. Funds are awarded by the Division to projects which protect and preserve publicly owned historical resources for the continued enjoyment of New Hampshire's citizens and visitors.

The Department of Cultural Resources will award as much as \$150,000 this year through its three Divisions, from funds generated by “Moose Plate” purchases. The Department makes grants available to libraries, arts projects, and historic preservation projects throughout the state. Pending Governor and Council approval, funds will be distributed for the following projects administered by the Division of Historical Resources.

Jaffrey will receive an award to the **Jaffrey Meeting House** for steeplejack work on the building's three stage bell tower. The Meeting House is a treasured building in the town, frequently used by the Jaffrey community. Constructed in 1775, it is a centerpiece of the Jaffrey Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 1975.

The **Temple Town Hall** will receive \$10,000 for the restoration of many of its period 16 over 16 windows. Careful preservation work saving much of the rare original glass will be completed.

Bradford's historic town hall will also receive \$10,000 for immediate amelioration of powder post beetle infestation, structural beam repairs, and development of a comprehensive preservation and fire safety plan.

Bradford received a double benefit from its Moose Plate Grant application, when stage curtain backdrops from the early 1900s



Back to the future: Bradford's rediscovered stage backdrop.

Courtesy photograph

were rediscovered in the process of photographing the building for the application.

Deerfield will receive funds to restore the 19th century portrait of Frederick Plummer James, known as the town's greatest benefactor. His portrait currently hangs in the **Philbrick-James Library, in the Deerfield Historic District.**

Westmoreland will receive funds to restore the **Westmoreland Corner School**, built in 1789 and actively used for school activities until the 1950s. It is one of two buildings in the town distinguished by listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Finally, **UNH Manchester** will receive \$10,000 for its “**Amoskeag Skyscape**” project, which will contribute to the cost of repairs for the 75 foot tall **UNHM chimney.** The Amoskeag Manufacturing Company, current home of UNH Manchester, is one of the nation's most important industrial complexes. It was determined eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places in April of 2000. Illustrations of the buildings and chimneys as character defining elements of the Manchester

skyline began appearing in publications in the 1870s, and the chimney is a highly visible structure along the banks of the Merrimack River. Recent masonry inspection has shown that it is extremely vulnerable to winds and weather.

The total preservation expenditures for the thirteen eligible projects are in excess of \$2,000,000, reflecting a remarkable leveraging ratio for the Moose Plate grants. The applicants are limited to a maximum annual award of \$10,000 by the Division, although they may reapply in future years.

All of the proposals demonstrate New Hampshire's strong local commitment to preserving historic character for generations to come. Additional funds for the preservation work come from a variety of local and grant funding sources. Priority for the 2007 grants was given to the successful candidates who demonstrated careful adherence to sound preservation practice, and strong community interest and support with matching funds or volunteer labor.

Pat Blevens
Grants Coordinator

Training for Regional Planning Commission Staff

On July 20, 2006, sixteen staff members from the state's Regional Planning Commissions gathered at the former Concord Waterworks complex (now the headquarters of the Concord Fire Department) for a day-long workshop on historic preservation planning. The workshop, sponsored by the Division of Historical Resources in conjunction with the NH Preservation Alliance, was facilitated by Historic Preservation Consultant Elizabeth Durfee Hengen and the DHR's Preservation Planner. While most planners do not specialize in historic preservation, circumstances commonly arise where they are confronted with issues regarding historic resources. The purpose of the workshop was to provide two planners from each Commission with the fundamentals of historic preservation planning.

It was an energetic and productive day, and we were especially pleased to have representation from each of the state's nine Regional Planning Commissions. The morning focused on preservation planning tools available to New Hampshire communities, including the State and National Register of Historic Places, historic preservation chapters in municipal master plans, heritage commissions, neighborhood heritage districts, local historic districts, and demolition review ordinances.

The lunch hour was highlighted by a visit from Concord Fire Chief Chris Pope, who explained the tremendous effort to reuse and restore the Waterworks complex. In addition, Kathy LaPlante, Director of the NH Main Street Center, provided an overview of the state's Main Street program. The afternoon concluded with two excellent field trips that showcased many of the tools discussed throughout the day, including a walk through downtown Concord's vibrant business district and a tour of the South End's historic railroad yards.

The participants left with a binder chock full of information on each of the tools discussed throughout the day, as well as a copy of *Preserving Community Character*. We look forward to a continued relationship with the participants, and a strong, collaborative relationship with the Regional Planning Commissions.

Emily Paulus
Preservation Planner

New Hampshire's Cultural Landscape (continued from page one)

Today, Bedford boasts a population of over 20,000. John Goffe's Mill is a tiny relic hidden behind the spreading wings of a hotel and conference center that was built on the Woodbury and adjacent farms in 1962. The green and jewel-like fields have been transformed into a desert of asphalt parking lots serving shopping centers and department stores. One margin of the millpond is blocked by the wall of a dormitory-like hotel wing; upstream, a second building spans the brook like a bridge.

The fate of Bowman's Brook shows the fragility of New Hampshire's landscape in an era when population growth and commercial development have outstripped the means to identify and protect our cultural resources. Yet the people of New Hampshire have often revealed an unerring sense of the value of their surroundings when change is imminent. Recent efforts to protect stone walls, cellar holes, stone culverts, arched stone bridges, rural roads, dams, old barns, and the buildings and machinery of past industries have largely originated with ordinary people whose love for these things has been translated into action when a threat became evident.

These people recognize that New Hampshire is a museum of its own history. What we once had, we still have, at least in part. About 10,000

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New Hampshire now has TWO historic preservation e-mail networks

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, with the assistance of Plymouth State University, has developed a free e-mail forum (or listserv) for heritage and historic district commission members in New Hampshire. It is an excellent resource for sharing information, ideas, questions, and experiences related to historic preservation in New Hampshire.

- If you are interested in joining this forum, you can subscribe by sending an e-mail to psu-heritage-commission@toto.plymouth.edu with just the word "subscribe" in the body of the text.
- If you have any questions, please contact Emily Paulus, Preservation Planner at 603-271-6628 or Emily. Paulus@dcr.nh.gov.



The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance and the DHR also share a free e-mail network for news and messages. Anyone may join. To subscribe, send an e-mail to linda.wilson@dcr.nh.gov.

To respect the privacy of the list members, messages on the NHPA/DHR list are sent as a "blind" or "undisclosed recipient" copy.

Contoocook Bridge Underpinning Continues



President David Wright of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges watches the lifting of a corner of the Contoocook Covered Railroad Bridge by Tim Andrews (in shadow) and Will Truax. Photograph by James L. Garvin

Tim Andrews of Barns and Bridges of New England is continuing the process of lifting and underpinning the four corners of the Contoocook Covered Railroad Bridge in Hopkinton. The National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc., is donating the cost of Andrews' work from its Eastman-Thomas Fund.

Built in 1889 for the Concord and Claremont Branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad, the double Town lattice bridge is the oldest covered railroad bridge in the world. The span is under the administrative care of the Division of Historical Resources, which has no capital budget for its maintenance. Over the past decade, the National Society has donated repairs to the side sheathing and flat metal roof of the bridge, purchased fire retardant chemicals for the wooden span, and provided countless hours of volunteer labor in maintaining the bridge.

Andrews is using two large steel I-beams, lent by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, to lift

each corner of the bridge without the need to jack the structure from the riverbed below. The beams have been lashed together to act as a single box girder more than seventy feet long, and the girder has been run through the bridge. One end is placed over the central pier of the bridge, elevated on cribbing which acts as a fulcrum. The other end projects beyond the portal of the bridge, where it can be jacked from solid ground. The girder is firmly attached to the adjacent wooden lattice trusses for stiffness. It is then connected to the floor beams below the lower chords of the bridge by stirrups made from high-strength steel.

By jacking the outer end of the box girder with hydraulic jacks, the girder is transformed into a second-class lever, lifting the entire corner of the bridge by upward pressure on the floor beams. Decayed bed timbers beneath the lower chords are replaced with new timbers made from longleaf southern yellow pine, treated with wood preservative and balanced on granite bridge seats.

The Contoocook Bridge was tipped off its abutments twice: by floods

in 1936 and by the great hurricane of 1938. Despite this rough treatment, the corners of the bridge are generally in sound structural condition, requiring little repair. One corner suffered some mechanical damage from the tipping in 1936 or 1938, and another from incipient decay caused by the buildup of damp earth around the bottom chord.

Once the bridge is firmly placed on new bed timbers, NHDHR will move into a second phase of rehabilitation. Using funds from a federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) grant, the Division will install a fire detection and protection system in the bridge, and will paint the exterior.

The nearby Contoocook Depot has been restored by the Contoocook Riverway Association under the same federal Transportation Enhancement grant, in addition to a federal Scenic Byway grant and local donations. The depot was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in March 2006 (see related story on page two).

Contoocook Bridge is one of three surviving covered bridges on the former Concord and Claremont rail line. Two others, in western Newport, are also state-owned, but are administered as trail crossings by the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED). Together, the three remaining Concord and Claremont Branch bridges are among the most significant of the eight covered railroad bridges that survive in the world. NHDHR is also working with the Town of Newport and the Newport Historical Society to provide fire protection for the two western bridges.

*James L. Garvin
State Architectural Historian*

Bridging the Gap



The historic double arch stone bridge in Stoddard, after restoration by the NH Department of Transportation. The arch on the left side of the bridge was completely rebuilt.

Courtesy photograph from Ed Welch, NH DOT

On September 12, 2006, the feature story on the front page of the New Hampshire Union Leader was “A Treasure Restored,” about the famous double stone arch bridge adjacent to New Hampshire Route 9 in Stoddard, New Hampshire. The bridge is an iconic image of the Granite State’s heritage, a beloved landmark, and a reminder of our transportation history. Its survival through the years reflects the important and growing contribution of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to historic preservation successes in our state.

At the eastern end of the bridge is a state historical marker, where NH DOT created a wayside park so that travelers may pull off the road, learn about the bridge, take photographs, and enjoy the natural beauty of the area. Because it is so visible, accessible, and popular, the Stoddard stone arch bridge was a significant economic and heritage tourism resource, until one of its two arches collapsed during the October 2005 flood.

What could have been a devastating loss has instead become a preservation victory, thanks to NH DOT’s stewardship and the skill of its stone masonry specialists. Now the Stoddard stone arch bridge is an engaging visual image of the power of

historic preservation to honor our shared values and to transmit them to future generations.

The journalistic coverage given to the bridge and the story of its resurrection reflects a gratifying new trend: greatly increased interest and coverage of New Hampshire historic preservation topics and projects, in all media, including print, broadcast, and electronic reporting.

Yet another message from the rebuilding of this stone arch bridge is

that “old” technology, using natural materials and techniques developed in the course of human experience through the ages, is sometimes more adaptable and repairable than modern materials and methodologies which may not stand the tests of memory or time.

New Hampshire’s Cultural Landscape

(continued from page four)

people lived in New Hampshire in 1730, after a century of European settlement here. The state’s population grew to over a million at the dawn of the twenty-first century. Yet things that were familiar to the people of 1730 can still be seen today, along with everything that has accumulated since. Until recently, our state has been so little affected by large-scale change that many relics of former times have rested safely beside the creations of more recent enterprise. Unlike Bowman’s Brook, much of New Hampshire remains a place where we can read our history in the lineaments of the landscape itself.

Almost every human activity has left its trace in our landscape, because almost every human need has been met through the creation of an object. The artifacts of history are everywhere.

They can be as enveloping as woodlands, cleared fields, and roadways; as dramatic as hydroelectric dams and factory smokestacks; as familiar as houses, schools, and libraries.

Every artifact embodies the story of its creation, but to read and understand that story we often need the help of people who are familiar with the context in which an object was created. With such help, the landscape and the objects in it can convey our history in a direct and tangible way, proving through our own senses that other people inhabited our land and met the challenges of their day as we meet those of our day. The objects through which our predecessors carried out their lives’ work or embodied their sense of beauty and meaning are often among our most accessible windows to history.

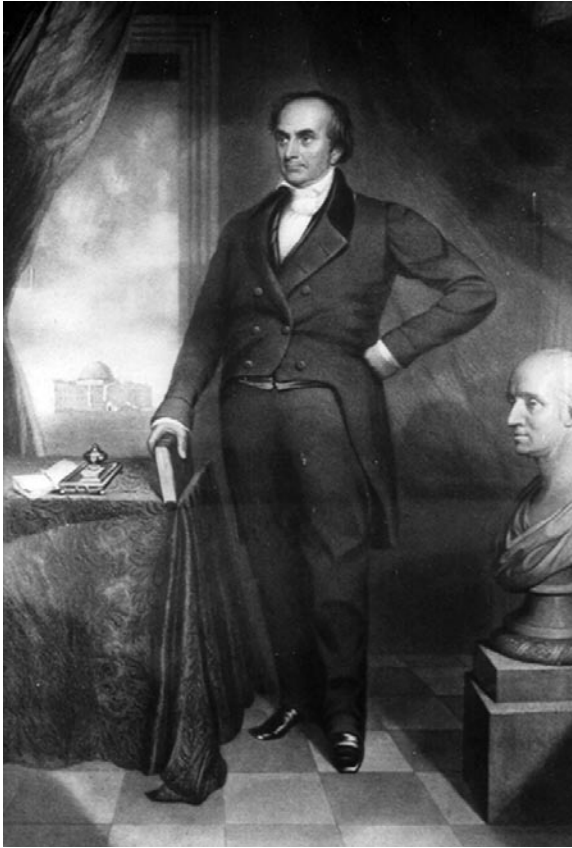
The field of historic preservation derives from the conviction that the cultural landscape embodies human life and memory, that this embodied humanity can be understood and savored, and that it conveys meaning. The act of understanding and preserving cultural resources is a form of environmental stewardship, an affirmation to future generations that we have endeavored to recognize and pass something of value to them.

*James L. Garvin
State Architectural Historian*



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Webster standing with a bust of Washington.

Painted by T. B. Lawson; engraved by C. E. Wagstaff and Joseph Andrews, 1862

Over the summer the State Curator has been photographing for the first time in color many of the 190 portraits that grace the New Hampshire State House. While walls were painted between legislative sessions, all but the largest portraits were removed to storage, where the photographs were made. At the same time, the conditions of the paintings were recorded and possible conservation treatments were evaluated. Many of the portraits have had no conservation work since coming to the State House decades ago.

Another summertime assignment was to photograph in black and white the Daniel Webster Birthplace collections, making notes on current condition and other information. The collections were brought together primarily by the Daniel Webster

Birthplace Association, the organization that reconstructed the Birthplace early in the 20th century. The Birthplace and its collections are now overseen by DRED, a/k/a the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development.

In preparation for this assignment, the State Curator reviewed 19th century evaluations of Daniel Webster that were shared with the New Hampshire public when Webster's statue was dedicated at the State House, June 17, 1886. The principal orator of the day, Samuel Colcord Bartlett, D.D., included several arresting images of Webster in his remarks:

"...that massive head, those deep flashing eyes, that penetrating voice that could ring out like a trumpet or

strike like a cannon ball, are never to be forgotten. In his young manhood he was to Judge Richard Fletcher 'the most majestic form and the noblest countenance on which he had ever looked,' and after his death, to Theodore Parker, 'the grandest figure in Christendom since Charlemagne.' Thorwaldsen, the sculptor, thought his [Webster's] bust in a studio was not that of a 'living man, but of an ancient Jupiter.' Thomas Carlyle, seeing Webster at breakfast, wrote of him, 'He is a magnificent specimen. As a logic fencer, advocate, or parliamentary Hercules, one would be inclined to back him...against all the extant world. That tanned complexion, that...crag-like face, the dull black eyes under the precipice of brows, like dull anthracite furnaces, waiting only to be blown, the mastiff mouth....'"¹

Webster's physical appearance was clearly noteworthy. But physical

appearance does not alone guarantee one's memory through generations. Webster was famous not only for his physical appearance but for his remarkable abilities in other areas. Webster's skills as a lawyer and orator were recognized as early as 1819, when at the age of thirty-four Webster successfully argued two very important cases, *McCulloch v. Maryland* and the *Dartmouth College Case*, before the U.S. Supreme Court. Subsequently chosen for a signal honor, Webster's oratorical skills were on public display when, in 1820, he delivered an address honoring the 200th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Massachusetts, before an audience of 30,000. For a generation after, Webster's address was declaimed in a great many American public schools. The second U.S. President, John Adams (1735-1826), said that "five hundred years hence it will be read with as much admiration as it was heard."² The Webster Birthplace has in its collections the 15th edition of Webster's *Works*, published in 1869, sixteen years after Webster's death. It is rare when a politician's words survive him, let alone when they survive him in a fifteenth edition published sixteen years after his death.

Modern audiences know Webster's name only through a dictionary (wrong Webster), or through a cigar (also wrong). We hope the Daniel Webster Birthplace will open again soon, with a renewed mandate to bring Americans of a modern generation to a renewed appreciation of this great man. The recording of Birthplace collections will help pave the way for a successful reinterpretation of this valued property.

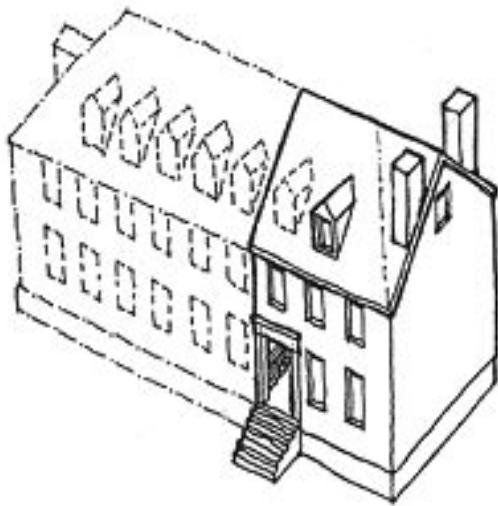
Russell Bastedo
State Curator

¹Official Proceedings at the Dedication of the Statue of Daniel Webster at Concord...on the 17th day of June 1886 (Manchester: John B. Clarke, 1886), pp. 33-34.

²Ibid., p. 35.

View From the Solarium
(continued from page one)

at the state house. In 1789, George Washington was received by the citizens of Portsmouth, and addressed the crowd from the famous balcony, assuring the nervous new nation that everything was going to be okay.



New Hampshire's Old State House (1758), showing the portion which has survived and is currently in storage.

Illustration from DHR project files

In 1836 the building was reduced in size and approximately one-third of it was relocated to 47 Court Street, where it was used as an apartment, a garage, and a liquor warehouse. In 1969 the building became the property of the State of New Hampshire and was moved to Strawberry Banke, where it remained on blocks until 1990. Then it was numbered, mapped, disassembled and put in a 40 foot second hand trailer, which has followed the Division of Historical Resources around to this very day.

There has never been a shortage of ideas for the future of what remains of the Old State House, yet the preservation and future use of what one might consider the most historically significant building in New Hampshire has eluded friends, patrons, committees, and the legislature.

But help is on the way!

Through the efforts of Senator Judd Gregg, a \$250,000 grant was awarded to the Division of Historical Resources to undertake a comprehensive planning effort directed at finding the best and most appropriate methods of interpreting what remains of the original building. A number of studies will be undertaken, public meetings and charrettes will be held, and an economic analysis of the value of the Old State House to cultural tourism in the Seacoast region will be commissioned.

All of this will be directed by our recently hired Special Projects Director, Peter Michaud. Peter is a graduate of UNH with a degree in history. He has been the Portsmouth and Exeter Site Manager for Historic New England for the last eight years. Peter has a wide range of community involvement in cultural activities in the Seacoast region, and with the Old Berwick Historical Society.

In addition to the Old State House Planning Grant, Peter will be responsible for the first-ever Preserve

America Grant received in New Hampshire, a grant that will help develop new interpretative programs at selected state historic sites.

More about Peter in our next issue, but we will be welcoming him on board in November. Under Peter's direction we expect the Old State House to finally have a new life, in whatever manifestation is appropriate for the home of the first seat of government in the Granite State.

James McConaha
Director,
NH Division of Historical Resources
NH State Historic Preservation Officer



*New Hampshire 2006
educational opportunities*

SCRAP
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Rescue Archaeology Program:**

<http://www.nhscrap.org/>

and

Project Archaeology Program:

[http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/
project_archaeology.pdf](http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/project_archaeology.pdf)

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19 Pillsbury Street, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-3570

603-271-3483 or 603-271-3558 • FAX 603-271-3433 • Voice/TTY Relay Access 1-800-735-2964 • preservation@dcr.nh.gov

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